

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION est. 1939

April 2000 Newsletter
Burgeoning Blossoms Greetings!

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Newsletter: Diana Patton
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Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Spring warmth and beauty has never come so early! Aren't we lucky to have the pastel trees and bright flowers now! And for even more beauty come to our next meeting, Monday, April 17, 7:30 pm at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church for an oil painting demo by Ron Peer. Many of us were fortunate enough to catch Ron Peer's highly entertaining and informative pastel demo of his wife, in the fall. And now, he's back with oils!

Debbie Hughes, our Chairwoman for the Big Apple trip, Sat. April 29th, informs us she has quite a few seats left. For \$22. made out to RVAA you have a wonderful bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Forbes Museum, and the Salmagundi Club (AWS Show). We leave 8:45 am from the upper parking lot of the Somerset County Library and return 6pm-ish. Mail ASAP to Debbie at 255 Falmouth Place, Bridgewater, 08807 (908/575-5442)

RVAA is still looking for someone to do our mailings--you don't need a computer as the member list will come as a form which can be copied onto mailing labels at the same time the newsletter is copied. After copying, you just stamp, label, and mail. Any volunteers for this job which probably takes 2-3 hours a month? Please call Linda at 908/647-3610 to volunteer.

Also, we are now in the position of needing a volunteer to be Workshop Coordinator. President Linda Arnold has the happy news that RVAA will be running (at least) four workshops, if we have the people to sign up. Schedule/rates/topic to be discussed at April's meeting, but it will probably run something like this: Mon. June 12th Diana Patton, clayboard & watercolor workshop 9:30-12:30 at the church \$30 for members, \$35. for non-members (this also covers the cost of the church room rental), Mon. June 19th Ludlow Thorston watercolor (our great demonstrator from March), Mon. June 26th Pastels with Chrisina DeBarry \$50-55. (you'll remember her beautiful floral pastel demo from the fall), and then in the fall Watercolors with Ruth Wilson. On Mon. evening June 19th we'll have Part II of Clayboard/Watercolor with demo/critique from Diana, probably 7:30-9:30 \$10. each (\$15 non-members); the rest of the members could see what we're learning, as sort of an extra June meeting. (P.S. If you're interested in clayboard-at all- Florence White told us she can get good prices on it; the workshop will

utilize both regular and textured clayboard for watercolor).

And yet more exciting news! The following opportunity comes from our own Kathy Detrano who brings us this: the newly opened Jazz Cafe of Somerville is interested in inviting members of the greater Somerville art community to share their time and art work (paintings, sculpture, etc.) with the Cafe. Harold Strickland, the cafe owner, is looking for a few artists to be part of the production of his first art exhibition at the Cafe. It is planned for Saturday afternoon, May 6, 2 pm to 5 pm. Artists are invited to bring a small display of their art work for sale (including a small display rack, etc.) Members of the local media (Cablevision and the newspapers will cover the event. If the weather permits, artists will be invited to set up an easel on the patio for painting "en plein air". Space is limited. In addition, the Cafe is thinking about inviting artists to paint "en plein air" on the patio on Friday evenings during the summer, weather permitting. If you are interested in participating (either May 6 or some later Fri. evening or Sat. afternoon), please let Diana Patton (as co-ordinator, at least for now!) know, so that plans can be firmed up. The Jazz Cafe is on Veterans Memorial Parkway, opposite the railroad, in Somerville, past the Pathmark Mall, going toward Raritan. (my number is 909/722-0562--you'd be safer to also drop me a postcard after the call with perhaps some dates you're interested in). The hope is that 3-6 artists might informally paint, perhaps with a portfolio, etc. on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, but this is still in a formative stage.

Also, don't forget from last month Ellen Faber's opportunity to exhibit at the "Coffee and More" Cafe, Rt.206 in the Edwards store shopping center. The contact person is Laura Stoffel, 908/431-1096. Ellen's at 908/359-4331.

And--for an RVAA Exhibit at the Montgomery Cultural Center, the 1860 House, we need 3 slides, representative of your work, from any artist interested in being part of this show, to be handed in by the May meeting.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

WALT MIHALIK has a one-man show in the Lighthouse section of the Community Hospital of Toms River during the months of March and April.

LINDA TAFFE won an Award of Excellence at the Millburn-Short Hills Art Center Members Show at Overlook Hospital.

RUTH WILSON won the Silver Brush and Impact Images Award at the Garden State Watercolor Society's Members Show and Honorable Mention at the Bridgewater Township Show. Ruth did demos for the Garden State Watercolor Society and RVAA. As an Invited Artist, she will have a one person show at the David DeWire Center, in Eagles Mere, PA, sponsored by the Eagles Mere Friends of the Arts, July 14, 15, 16th, 2000. This summer Ruth is planning to open her own gallery--the North Mountain Gallery, in North Mountain, PA.

At the Annual Art Exhibit sponsored by the Bridgewater Committee for the Creative Arts it happens that most of the prizes were awarded to members of the Raritan Valley Arts Association, including the following:

First-Angela Fehrenback; Second-Mary Ann Vaccaro; Third Awards to Barbara Briden and to Jim Laubach; Honorable Mentions to Marian Cornwell, Mary Ann Creasy, Sherry Engelberg, Sylvia Glesmann, Geri Oldman, and Ruth Wilson. The "Historic Awards" went to Debbie Hughes and Diana Patton.

Whew! Obviously RVAA is as lively and colorful as the spring outside!